

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE: BAFLATIN:FPS

APPROVED BY T: WHDONALDSON

EUR/CE: NCLEDSKY

EB/OA/AVP: DBORTMAN

EUR: WSTABLER

S/S: MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS DEMARCHE CONCERNING AVIATION FUEL

1. ON DECEMBER 20, SWISS AMBASSADOR FELIX SCHNYDER CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY WILLIAM H. DONALDSON TO PRESENT A NOTE CITING THE "SERIOUS CONCERN" OF HIS GOVERNMENT OVER THE EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT OIL CRISIS ON INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC, IN GENERAL, AND SWISS AVIATION, IN PARTICULAR. THE NOTE CALLS UPON THE USG TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS "TO ALLOCATE FUEL IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION," IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING AGREEMENTS.

2. IN REPLY, MR. DONALDSON INFORMED AMBASSADOR SCHNYDER THAT THE USG HAD ANNOUNCED EARLIER THAT MORNING THAT 1.5 MILLION BARRELS OF JET FUEL FROM US MILITARY STOCKS
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IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULED

TRAFFIC--AND IS TO BE SHARED ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS.
THIS SHORT-RANGE RELIEF, WHICH WE HOPE WILL MEET WITH
RECIPROCAL TREATMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SHOULD PROVIDE
ABOUT A MONTH'S SUPPLY, AT 50,000 BARRELS PER DAY.

3. FOLLOWING THIS PERIOD, SAID MR. DONALDSON, WE HOPE
TO HAVE A LONG-TERM SUPPLY PLAN IN OPERATION. AS US
AIRLINES ARE BEING EXPECTED TO OPERATE WITH ALLOCATIONS
BASED ON 85 PERCENT OF THEIR 1972 CONSUMPTION, WE WILL BE

EXPECTING FOREIGN CARRIERS TO OPERATE WITHIN THESE LIMITS
AS WELL.

3. AMBASSADOR SCHNYDER WELCOMED THE NEWS OF THE SHORT-
RUN RELIEF PLAN, WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY TO BERN
IMMEDIATELY. HE ASSURED MR. DONALDSON THAT ALL CARRIERS,
SWISS AND FOREIGN, WOULD ALSO RECEIVE EQUAL ACCESS TO
FUEL AT SWISS AIRPORTS--ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT STATE AT
THIS TIME WHETHER THE SWISS WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO ADOPT
OUR 85 PERCENT-OF-1972 CONSUMPTION FIGURE. BECAUSE OF
THE SHARP CUTBACKS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE BY
SWISSAIR IN ITS TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHTS, AMBASSADOR
SCHNYDER THOUGHT THE REGULAR SWISS SCHEDULED SERVICES
COULD OPERATE SATISFACTORILY WITHIN THE 85 PERCENT
MARGIN, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT YET CERTAIN HOW THAT
LIMITATION MIGHT AFFECT SWISS CHARTER TRAFFIC--WHICH HAD
ONLY DEVELOPED FULLY IN 1973 (HE STATED THAT HE WAS
NOT ADDRESSING THE CHARTER PROBLEM IN THIS PARTICULAR
DEMARCHE, HOWEVER). RUSH

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